

MERCHANT SHIPS WILL BE ORDERED TO FIRE ON ATTACKING SUBMARINES

President Wilson Comes to Decision to Place Navy Guns, Gunners And Ammunition Aboard Commerce Vessels And the Work Will Be Started Immediately

CONGRESS IS CALLED IN SPECIAL SESSION

It Is Likely That Congress Will Be Asked to Give Specific Authority to President to Arm Ships Despite Decision That the Executive Already Has the Right

Washington, D. C., March 10.—The uncertainty felt about the capitol for the last week over an early session of Congress was replaced to-day by preparations for the special session called by the president for April 16 to consider appropriation bills and other important measures on which final action was not taken before the adjournment of the 64th Congress last Sunday.

The new body probably will be asked to consider an armed neutrality bill, specifically authorizing the arming of ships and appropriating funds for the purpose despite the president's decision yesterday that he already had executive power to put navy guns, gunners and ammunition aboard merchantmen.

Speaker Clark believed that Congress will find so much work before it that it will continue in session until August, 1918.

American merchant ships will be armed immediately, and they will be sent to sea under orders to fire on German submarines which attack them. In official circles to-day, confidence was expressed that Secretary of the Navy Daniels' appeal to the newspapers not to seek or publish specific news of the arming and sailing of American merchantmen would be observed.

The mere appearance of a German submarine or its periscope in the presence of an American armed merchant vessel would entitle that ship, according to state department opinion to-day, to take all measures of protection on the presumption that the U-boat's purpose was hostile. Under this ruling an American armed merchantman could fire on a German submarine the moment it is sighted without being considered as taking aggressive action.

This view is based on Germany's declared intention to sink on sight within certain zones all vessels, neutral or belligerent, and whether passenger vessels, freighters or contraband carriers. Whether the United States government will issue any general rules for the guidance of American armed ships, commanders are uncertain at present.

Formal announcement of the government's policy was given in the following announcement issued from the White House:

"Whereas public interests require that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon on the 16th day of April, 1917, to receive such communications as may be made by the executive;

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the capitol in the city of Washington on the 16th day of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice.

"Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America, the ninth day of March in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen, and of the independence of the United States, the one hundred and forty-first."

The president signed the proclamation calling the extra session of Congress and authorized the publication of the explanatory statement with Secretary Tumulty's situation. He is satisfied that the cold has kept him from seeing callers for three days.

In deciding that he has power to arm merchantmen, the president took the position that an old statute passed in 1819, cited in the Senate debate on prohibiting such a step without congressional action, has no application to the present situation. He is satisfied that the nation stands behind him, and accepts the overwhelming vote in the House on the armed neutrality bill, and the known opinion of a large majority of the Senate as proof of the attitude of Congress.

APPEALS TO PATRIOTISM.

Secretary Daniels Wants News of Merchant Craft Suppressed.

Washington, D. C., March 10.—Lacking legal authority to establish censorship, the administration last night appealed to the patriotism of the country's newspaper and cable companies, to suppress publication and transmission of information about the movements of American merchant craft, now to be armed against German submarines.

"The best news that readers can have," Secretary Daniels said in a formal statement to press representatives, "is that the government will protect the rights of Americans to the freedom of the seas. The publication of details can serve

highest patriotic services by refraining from at this time what ordinarily they would freely print.

"Inasmuch as it will be impossible to reach every paper and news agency directly, I will ask all papers to carry this request, which is made as an appeal to patriotism to all journalists and disseminators of news. The best news the readers can have is that the government will protect the rights of America to the freedom of the seas. The publication of details can serve no good purpose and might jeopardize human life. All readers will surely applaud the papers in responding to this appeal."

HOUSE CONTROL IN DOUBT.

Calling of Special Session Brings Up Disputed Claims.

Washington, D. C., March 10.—Optimistic forecasts of the control of the next House came quickly from Democratic and Republican leaders when they heard of the president's call for an extra session of Congress April 16. Many unbiased observers, however, foresee only a long and bitter organization fight unless a coalition agreement prevails.

Both Speaker Clark and Representative Woods of Iowa, chairman of the Republican congressional committee, predicted victory for their respective parties. Each said his party was assured of at least 218 votes and that this probably would be its minimum strength.

The official standing of the incoming House is as follows:

Republicans, 215; Democrats, 214; Prohibitionists, 1; Progressives, 1; Progressive-protectionists, 1; Socialists, 1; independent, 1; vacant, 1.

The vacancy exists in the 15th New York district, which is overwhelmingly Democratic. Under the New York law this vacancy can be filled before the extra session begins if a special election is called before next Friday. It has been generally believed Gov. Whitman would call the election, which would make virtually certain a tie at 215 between the Democratic and Republican memberships on the opening day of the session. Then the winning side would have to gain the votes of three of the five so-called independents in order to have a majority.

Republican leaders are worried over the illness of three of their members and the statement of a fourth, Representative Heintz of Ohio, that he does not favor Representative Mann for speaker. Representatives Hill of Connecticut, Sullivan of New Hampshire and Graham of Pennsylvania, are ill. Though their condition is not thought to be serious, there are fears that Representatives Hill and Sullivan may not be on their feet again for some time.

All of the newly elected Democratic and Republican members probably will be summoned here for caucuses a week or 10 days before Congress is reconvened. Democrats are assured that all of their members will caucus, but several former Progressive members are expected to caucus with the Republicans. It is understood, will decline to be bound by caucus rules.

Some members of both of the old parties would not be surprised to see a coalition agreement entered into before April 16 and the slate carried through with a rush before the end of the first day. Success of the bi-partisan proposal will depend in a great measure on the international situation five weeks hence and gaps which may be caused in the ranks of the big parties by illness or death. Neither side proposes to permit weeks of weariness and useless balloting for speaker to tie up important government business.

KILLED HIS MOTHER AND THEN TOLD OF IT

Police Investigated and Found Michael Hennigan's Story to Be True—Their Neighbors Heard Quarrel.

Boston, March 10.—Michael Hennigan, a laborer, surrendered to-day and confessed, the police said, to the murder of his mother, Mrs. Mary Hennigan, whose almost lifeless body was found at their home in the Roxbury district. The woman died on the way to the hospital.

Hennigan first told of her crime in a saloon and afterwards repeated it to a policeman who held him while officers went to the house and investigated. The woman was 76 years of age. Neighbors heard a quarrel during the night. Hennigan, the police say, made no statement as to the cause of the trouble.

TWO SUITS BROUGHT.

By Middlebury College Against Charles H. Thompson, Et Al.

Middlebury, March 10.—A suit at law and another in chancery have been instituted by the president and fellows of Middlebury college against Charles H. Thompson of Montpelier, Frank H. Stuart and Albert T. Stuart of Newton, Mass., the Central Power corporation of Vermont, and other interested parties whose names and residences are unknown. The purpose of the suits is to determine the boundaries of lands owned by the respective parties on both sides of Middlebury river and on both sides of the stream known as the north and south branches of the Middlebury river and to determine the water power rights of the different parties along these streams.

The college lands in question were derived through the will of the late Joseph B. Battell, who died in February, 1916. A hearing to take depositions in the suits will be held before Assistant Judge Charles S. James of Weybridge at the office of County Clerk Rufus Wainwright in Middlebury Tuesday, March 27. James R. Donaway of Middlebury is attorney for the college parties in these cases.

The subject of Rev. J. W. Barnett's sermon at the Congregational church on Sunday evening will be, "Whence Shall We Buy Bread?" the topic being one of a series on matters of everyday life of the present.

MEDICAL INSPECTION IN SCHOOLS.

What the Vote Recently Taken in Barre Means.

Some 1,100 voters of Barre whose decision to introduce medical inspection in the public schools was registered at the polls Tuesday may be interested to know the procedure that will be followed in establishing the medical service. The arbitrary powers of the school board will figure prominently in the steps that are to be taken before inspection begins and unless the actual work is delegated to a registered nurse, there will be a small-sized boom in the doctor business for someone, as there are upward of 2,500 children who may be subject to the inspection.

Sec. 1 of act 72, public acts of 1915, says that the school directors or commission shall appoint one or more medical inspectors for the schools provided the legal voters vote in favor of inspection. The compensation of the inspectors shall be fixed by the commissioners and in examining the pupils, the inspectors shall comply with such rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the state board of health. In the third section it is set forth that the inspectors shall examine the pupils of any private school when requested to do so by the principal, whenever any communicable disease is present in said private school or when the pupils may have been exposed to any communicable disease.

Secs. 4 and 5 are given as follows: "When the parents, guardians or those having legal control of any pupil desire that such examination shall be made by a physician other than the medical inspector appointed by the school directors, such privilege shall be granted on written demand being made to the school directors therefor; and such examination, when so made and certified to by such regular physician shall be in lieu of that made by the regularly appointed inspector, and such examination shall be without expense to the towns.

Sec. 5: "The term 'medical inspectors,' as used in this act, shall be construed to mean either licensed physicians or trained nurses."

MRS. GUILFORD HAD DELUSION.

Declared Superintendent of Hartford, Conn., Retreat.

The concluding testimony concerning the Brattleboro Retreat will be taken at Brattleboro early next week. Several witnesses were heard at Montpelier yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Thompson, superintendent of the Hartford Retreat at Hartford, Conn., where Mrs. Mattie A. Guilford of Brattleboro, the patient whose story of alleged abusive treatment caused the investigation, was once an inmate, testified that she was a violent patient and that he believed her insane delusions still persisted. Other witnesses were Dr. George R. Anderson and Dr. Harry P. Green of the staff of the Brattleboro Memorial hospital, Dr. G. B. Landers, formerly of the Retreat staff, now of the Morristown, N. J., General hospital, and A. McDonald of Brattleboro, a former Retreat attendant.

Dr. Charlotte Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury testified that the strong medicine which Gertrude Graham of St. Johnsbury testified Dr. Fairbanks had given her when she was taken to the Retreat was merely a sleeping potion. The Graham woman, she said, was a drug addict. Dr. F. E. Steele of Montpelier and Dr. Bryant of Ludlow of the board of supervisors of the Retreat testified that they made visits unannounced and that conditions at the institution were always good. The testimony given by Mrs. Abigail Guilford who, after coming from Brooklyn, N. Y., and spending three weeks at the Retreat, denied she had ever told Mrs. Guilford of seeing a patient secluded at the institution was strongly contradicted by Dr. E. E. Potter, Miss Harriet Miner, Mrs. Guilford's daughter, and E. E. Guilford, her husband. All three swore that they had heard Mrs. Guilford make the statement to Mrs. Guilford. A postal receipt for five dollars signed by Mrs. Guilford was introduced in contradiction of the statement of the latter that she had not received that sum which the Guilfords owed her.

MARION (McDONALD) BINDEN

Was Formerly of Barre But Recently Lived in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Marion (McDonald) Binden passed away at noon to-day at the home of her sister, Mrs. W. T. Calder of 471 North Main street. She had been ill for some months with a complication of diseases and was brought from her home in Boston to Barre only two months ago. The funeral will be held from the Calder residence Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and burial will be in Hope cemetery, although the body will be placed in the tomb at Elmwood for the time being.

Mrs. Binden was born in Winslow, P. Q., 40 years ago and lived for some time in Barre. She married George Binden, who was for a time connected with a Boston newspaper and who died four years ago. Mrs. Binden leaves one daughter, who is with her at the time of her death; also three sisters, Mrs. Mabel Higgins of Kansas City, Mo., and Mrs. W. T. Calder and Miss Lena McDonald, both of Barre; and a brother, George McDonald of Lowell, Mass. The deceased was a member of the Pythian Sisters, being connected with Renata lodge, No. 1.

VIRTUALLY RECOVERED.

But President Wilson Still Stays in His Room.

Washington, D. C., March 10.—President Wilson virtually has recovered from the cold which has kept him in bed the last four days. While he remained in his room this morning it was expected that he would be able to attend to public business. He had no engagements to-day.

VON BERNSTORFF IS OVER.

Former Ambassador Said to Have Reached Christiana.

London, March 10.—Von Bernstorff arrived at Christiana this morning, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

Call to National Bank.

Washington, D. C., March 10.—The comptroller of the currency to-day issued a call for the condition of all national banks at the close of business March 5.

ADVANTAGE WITH FRENCH IN CHAMPAGNE

Germans' Attempt to Recapture Ground Taken from Them Between Butte de Mesuite and Maisons de Champagne Was Most Desperate During Night

FRENCH EVEN MADE SOME MORE PROGRESS

The Paris Official Statement Tells of Charges and Counter-Charges with Alternating Advances and Retreats but with the French Not Only Holding Their Own but Advancing

Paris, March 10.—Violent fighting occurred in Champagne last night in consequence of a German attempt to recapture the ground won by the French between Butte de Mesuite and Maisons de Champagne. To-day's official statement says that after several desperate charges had been made with alternate advances and retreats, the French succeeded in holding all the ground they had gained and in making fresh progress.

On the Verdun front the Germans attacked the trenches recaptured by the French north of Caucourt wood. They penetrated these positions at some points but were ejected by counter-attacks. The French continued their raids, penetrating German positions east of Armançon as far as the third trench and taking prisoners near Cray, northeast of Soissons.

GERMANS REPORT SHIPS DESTROYED IN MEDITERRANEAN

Included in the List Are Three British Vessels Which Had Previously Been Reported by Lloyds as Sunk.

Berlin, via wireless, March 10.—The following account of submarine operations was given to-day by the admiralty:

In the Mediterranean there have been sunk nine steamers and three sailing vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 32,000. Among the ships sunk were the Morino, an armed Italian steamer of 4,150 tons, laden with cotton, sunk Feb. 24; the Rosalia, an Indian transport steamer of 4,237 tons, with ammunition and oil from New York for Saloniki, sunk the 14th; the Watfield, an armed British steamer of 3,012 tons, with 4,500 tons of magnesium for England, sunk the 21st; a French steamer of about 1,000 tons, sunk the 22d; the Trojan Prince, an armed British steamer of 3,196 tons, with a cargo of feed, sunk the 23d; the Burnby, an armed British steamer of 3,665 tons, with 5,200 tons of coal from Cardiff to Algeria, sunk the 25th; an armed hostile transport steamer of about 5,000 tons, loaded with coal, sunk the 26th; the Victoria, a Greek steamship of 1,388 tons, sunk the 26th; the Craigdonan, an armed British steamer of 2,789 tons, sunk March 3.

The sinking of the Rosalia, Trojan Prince and Watfield had been previously announced by London Lloyds.

150 BANQUETS.

Attended Merlo Academy Festivities in Howland Hall.

Merlo's Academy club dined and otherwise entertained its members and enough guests to round out an even 150 banquettes at Howland hall last evening, the occasion being the fourth annual gathering of the organization. There were present people from Granville, Websterville and Montpelier. Covers were laid for a big banquet and at 8 o'clock the first feature of the jubilee was under way. Mrs. John Forbes catered for the affair and she was assisted by a corps of waiters from Goddard seminary. At the after-dinner exercises the toast to the ladies was given by Blossom Ossola and Robert Diack responded to the toast to Merlo's academy. Colorful decorations were used in arranging the hall interior and those who have attended other banquets of the club pronounced last night's affair the most successful of its kind in the history of the club.

The committee in charge of the banquet and dance consisted of R. Ossola, Jerry Burke, Robert Diack and William Forbes.

CONVICTED OF SINKING SHIP.

Seven Germans and One Dane Guilty of Act at Charleston, N. C.

Florence, S. C., March 10.—Eight officers and men of the German Hansa line freighter Liebenfels, which began sinking in Charleston harbor on the night of Jan. 31, were found guilty of sinking the vessel in a navigable stream by a jury in the United States district court here yesterday. They were acquitted, however, on one count charging conspiracy to sink the steamer. The trial of Captain Johann R. Klattenhoff, master of the Liebenfels, was postponed. He is ill at Charleston.

All the convicted men are Germans, except Chief Engineer Jensen, who is a Danish subject. Several of the men are German naval reservists.

AMERICA SHOULD HAVE PART

In World Peace Movement, Said Prof. Bonney of Middlebury.

"America at the Cross Roads" was the subject of an interesting academic discussion of peace possibilities after the war by Professor Luther I. Bonney of Middlebury college before the members of the Vincitla club and their guests last evening. The speaker was one of a series of entertainments planned by the club and was well attended. Professor Bonney was introduced by N. J. Roberts, chairman of the entertainment committee, and throughout the course of his remarks the audience listened most attentively. The speaker said in part:

"Since the war for independence, America may be said to have arrived at the cross roads on two occasions. The first time a nation of loosely knit states, immediately after their defensive war, were in danger of losing all that they had attained through petty jealousies and sectional strife. Great leaders of the revolution, however, turned bravely to the task of establishing an interrelation of parts and interdependence gave way to independence and the 13 parts were subordinated to the whole. A crisis was thereby averted. Again, through the medium of civil war, the nation reaffirmed its belief in the principles of the revolution and added thereto the principle that the majority should maintain the union even though recourse to arms be had.

"America is once more at the cross roads of a great decision. There are chaotic conditions in the world and we are in the midst of a struggle that dwarfs every struggle in history. Men who represent all of the warring nations, nevertheless, are searching for some means to do away with armed strife. Here in America we have organized the League to Enforce Peace. It is more than probable that after the war attention will be turned toward the organization of a league to embrace all nations. Toward that league what attitude shall the United States take? Shall it be that of individualism, co-operation, unionism, nationalism or internationalism? I believe that it should be the latter. The parts should be subordinated to the whole, and the issue is the most important of modern times. Obviously we shall know best how to progress when we learn beyond a doubt just what the preparation is for. Here we may rightly ask what effect would a large military organization have on the nation. In Germany its effect has been very unsatisfactory. On the other hand, the Grand Army of the Republic was one of the greatest exponents of American democracy.

"The United States should take part in the league. Questions could be logically analyzed and the details could be settled in conference. This far diplomacy, alliances and Hagia Sophia have failed and it may be said in truth that when nations demonstrate that they cannot live continuously at peace with each other it is the duty of civilization to devise some method that will succeed. Who is to blame for war? Civilization, because it has never tried to do anything. The responsibility is on the citizenship of the world. The machine gun does not deal out justice. War does not settle international questions. Reason only brings justice.

"A world league with a strong central authority is the only means of assuring peace. It is in line with political evolution. The analogy between the possibilities of world peace and the development of the human race, from kindred families to clans, from clans to tribes and then to nations is clear. The group tendency to centralize political power makes for peace and it is an axiom that disputes are best settled by the appeal to reason. For reason does not depend upon custom, manners or nationality. There is every reasonable basis for thinking that such a league would attain the desired end.

"America should be ready to do her part in furthering the interests of a confederation of nations that is strong enough to maintain peace and secure justice. The league should not be advocated for purposes of aggression or to check aggression, but its purpose should be clear, from the outset, America, the most powerful of nations, except in a military sense, America with double the wealth of the British empire and resources equal to the combined resources of the allies, should contribute powerfully to the success of a world league. Geographically she is well located and the nature of her conglomerate population her participation would not be attended by racial feeling or prejudice. Moreover, the balance of power should be on the side of democracy and America, as the greatest democracy of the world, should cast her influence on the right side. In the near future America will be called upon to make a decision in the momentous matter and as the close of the present war will be the most favorable time for the league's inception, sentiment among Americans should be aligned at once in favor of world peace."

"A MAN'S VOICE" HEARD.

It Was Said to Be Wholly Pleasing to Many Odd Ladies.

Five members of Granite City lodge, I. O. O. F., M. U., in amateur theatricals were accorded a warm reception in Knights of Columbus hall last evening when "A Man's Voice" was presented before 150 odd ladies and their guests. The presentation of the amusing little playlet in two acts followed the regular meeting of the lodge and after the mystery of "A Man's Voice" had been unraveled, there was dancing. Between the first and second acts Mrs. James V. Laing and Miss Hazel Mackay contributed a pleasing piano duet. "After the Charge" (H. Engelmann).

The Manchester Unity thespians were all happy in the parts assigned them and the most was exacted from a number of odd situations in which the piece afforded opportunities for clever acting. The cast was admirably assisted by Harold Faulker, whose impersonation of the plot mystery. A dual role was assumed by Miss Isabella Thompson and others whose histrionic capabilities matched the requirements of rather difficult roles were Miss Josephine M. Rizzi, Miss Annie Anderson, Miss Bertha Dale and Mrs. Nellie Bianchi. The parts were taken as follows: Miss Matilda Perkins, averse to matrimony; Miss Rizzi; Miss Arabella Perkins, her younger sister; Miss Anderson; Miss Gwendolyn Perkins; Miss Dale; Mrs. Josiah Ingalls, proprietor of Dave Inn; Mrs. Bianchi; Betty, the colored chamber maid at the inn; and Hilda, Mrs. Perkins' maid, Miss Thompson.

INVESTIGATE HIGHWAY DEPT.

Is Proposal Introduced in the Vermont Senate To-day

AND MAKE REPORT TO 1919 LEGISLATURE

The Dunham Marriage Bill Goes Over to Next Wednesday

Although the attendance in both branches of the legislature was much larger than at any previous Saturday morning session, neither house transacted business of much importance, the bills classed as unimportant being disposed of without discussion and those likely to arouse debate were ordered to lie and made special orders for next week, including the Dunham marriage bill in the Senate and the customs brokerage bill in the House. The marriage bill will be taken up Wednesday forenoon at 10:30 o'clock and the customs brokerage measure, which was ordered to a third reading by the House yesterday afternoon after nearly four hours' discussion, is a special order for Tuesday afternoon at 2:45 o'clock.

The House ordered to a third reading Mr. Howland's bill for the establishment of county hospitals for tuberculosis.

A joint resolution looking to the investigation of the methods employed by the state highway commissioner's department in building and repairing Vermont's highways was introduced in the Senate and referred to the committee on appropriations. The resolution, presented by Senator McClellan, directs the governor to appoint a committee of three citizens familiar with the construction and repair of highways whose duty it shall be to examine the condition and conduct of the commissioner's department and investigate the condition and needs of the highways of the state, reporting to the 1919 legislature with recommendations. The expenses of the committee shall be paid by the state and the compensation of members shall be fixed by the governor.

The Senate adopted a joint resolution introduced by Senator Proctor endorsing the position of William Howard Taft, ex-president of the United States and president of the American branch of the League to Enforce Peace, in advocating that after the close of the present war the United States take the initiative in forming a league of nations to guarantee the future peace of the world.

Woman Suffrage Wins in House.

By a vote of 104 to 100 the House yesterday afternoon passed the bill giving tax-paying women the right to vote in town meetings. At the outset Mr. Haynes of Orange demanded the yeas and nays on the question of the passage of the measure. Mr. Phelps of Fair Haven spoke against the bill as being discriminatory and urged the House to vote against it. Mr. Williams of Proctor regretted that the proposed amendment by Mr. Fenton (making a property qualification) was not adopted. Mr. Spaulding of Warren wanted the bill closely scrutinized. Mr. Metzger of Randolph spoke again in favor of the measure and Mr. Shanley of Bakersfield also favored it. Mr. Bond of Searsburg asked to be excused from voting because he thought the bill unfair in that all women could not vote, but the House refused to excuse him. The bill was then passed amid applause.

The House also passed the bill to authorize the village of Waterbury to issue bonds for the purpose of providing a lighting system.

There was a considerable debate yesterday afternoon on House bill 111, relating the rights and duties of railroad and express companies relating to customs house brokerage. Representative Stone of Highgate, who introduced the bill, led the fight in support of the measure. The other speakers who favored it were Mr. LaFleur of Middlebury, Mr. Prouty of Newport and Mr. Bellows of Swanton. Mr. Stearns of Burlington, chairman of the corporations and franchises committee, which reported the bill adversely, explained and defended the committee's action. Mr. Puffer of Richmond, Mr. Cudworth of Londonderry, Mr. Candon of Pittsfield, Mr. Gates of Franklin, Mr. Smith of St. Albans and Mr. Hicks of Weathersfield favored the rejection of the bill.

The supporters of the bill contended that the railroads in carrying on the business of customs brokers through their employees and otherwise, had created a monopoly, and that independent brokers could not compete on even terms with the railroad employees, who were acting as brokers. Unfair and discriminatory practices by the railroads were charged and also that the railroad employees changed the names of consignees of bills of lading from those of independent brokers to the railroad agents. Mr. LaFleur of Middlebury deprecated a "subtle underlying current in the lobby" regarding the bill and said that it wasn't right to have railroad lawyers listening in the lobby and talking to members.

The opponents of the bill contended that the railroads carried on the customs brokerage business for the benefit of their shippers and that it was right incidental to the business. Independent brokers could not handle the work as expeditiously as the companies' agents. It was also stated that the shippers and the independent brokers, with the exception of one, were not demanding relief from existing conditions. Mr. Cudworth of Londonderry stated that the complaints had elected their remedy by taking the matter before the interstate commerce commission and should wait until the matter had been determined by the courts, where it is now pending.

The House refused a third reading to the administration measure increasing the salary of the auditor of accounts from \$2,300 to \$3,900. The bill was sent back to the House with a divided report.

(Continued on eighth page.)